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Number 135

THE COMIC READER

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September 1976

street ST enterprises

P.O. Box 255 Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

OUR COVER: Charlton artist Rich Larson illustrates what happened at the last con he attended, when a dealer shouted, "All my comics -- only 50% of Guide prices!!"

The COMIC READER

September 1976

Volume I, Number 135

Jerry Bails
Founder

Jerome Sinkovec
Editor & Publisher

David Finger
Contributing Editor

Michael Tiefenbacher
Editor

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ERB News

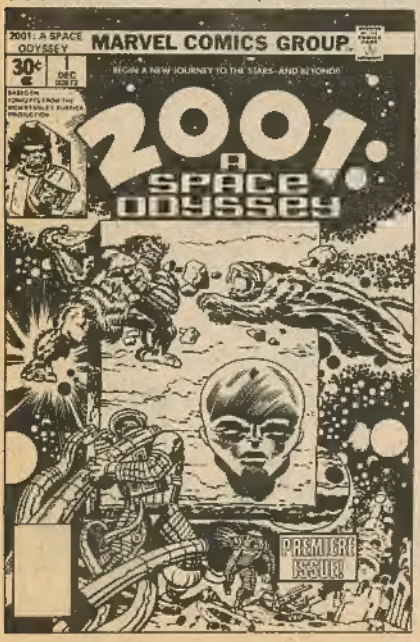
Well, it was a good idea. But the executives at Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., after having taken an extremely close look at how much it will cost to start a new comics group these days, have decided that it is beyond their capabilities. As it stands right now, their plans for monthly TARZAN and KORAK books are null and void. Fifty stories had already been completed, but chances are that these will never be published as ERB is negotiating with a number of already existant comics companies (infer what you will!), who would more than likely rather do their own editorial content. Even if ERB changes their mind and decides to publish the stuff, it will be very near to impossible to reassemble the staff, as the artists have scattered and editor Mark Evanier has left comics to work for the Norman Lear television studio.

However, you needn't worry about Tarzan -- we'd bet that the title will continue to appear after National's last issue with a gap of two to three months at the most. We'll probably be able to tell you for sure next month.

Marvel News

The first episode of BLOODSTONE in THE RAMPAGING HULK will be written by John David Warner, and drawn by John Buscema and Rudy Nebres. By the third issue, Walt Simonson will do the lay-outs for that strip as well as the HULK story. The second episode will probably be by Bob Brown.

Here we go again. MARVEL PREVIEW #8, which we believe was to include the second THOR black and white (the first one was



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cancelled and ended up as this year's THOR ANNUAL), won't because a whole bunch of pages got lost in the mail. In its place we will get a LEGION OF MONSTERS compilation.

Val Mayerik will pencil an issue of DOC SAVAGE.

The Sons Of The Tiger will regroup in DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #32.

Jim Shooter is writing DAREDEVIL #141 which will have one half pencilled by Gil Kane and the other half by Bob Brown.

John Byrne will take over the art on THE CHAMPIONS as of issue #11.

POWER MAN #38-39 are drawn by Bob Brown with Lee Elias taking over as of #40.

RED SONJA #1 will go on sale in October. The cover is reproduced above.

WEIRD WONDER TALES #19 will begin a series of altered reprints of the first Marvel hero strip, DR. DROOM, that appeared in AMAZING ADVENTURES #1-6. However, to avoid confusion with Dr. Doom, he's now called DR. DRUID. As well as the five stories (he didn't appear in AA #5), he will introduce the other stories in the issue. Druid has also acquired a bit of hair to avoid confusion with Professor Xavier. But that's not all! The good Doctor will probably turn up in an issue of THE INCREDIBLE HULK.

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #32 will most likely feature TORPEDO, that guy with a mission from DAREDEVIL.

Don Newton is inking the Roger Stern-Jeff Aclin MIDNIGHT story, while Bruce Patterson is doing the inks on the five page Scott Edelman-Juan Ortiz NICK FURY story.

Unbelievable! Coming up in a future issue of GHOST RIDER -- a clear definition of what exactly GR's powers are!

The Wrecking Crew will be appearing in Iron Fist.

Ms. Marvel will battle The Scorpion, old Spider-Man foe, in the first issue of her own magazine.

Aunt May and Uncle Ben will be popping up in a future WEIRD WONDER TALES via a reprint of that story from STRANGE TALES #97 which tells a tale of Peter Parker's mysterious cousin.

Omega The Unknown will soon face The Wrench.

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢
1 DEC
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
FOREST HEGHT COLLECTOR'S EDITION! BY POPULAR DEMAND SPIDEY STARS IN AN ALL-NEW ACTION SERIES!
FEATURING: THE STINGING RETURN OF THE TARANTULA!

MARVEL PRESENTS #9 begins the origin of Starhawk.

Hawkeye and the Two-Gun Kid will make their reappearance in THE CHAMPIONS, as will Black Goliath.

The first four new MARVEL CLASSICS COMICS will be out in October and will be: LAST OF THE MOHICANS by Doug Moench and Sonny Trinidad, WAR OF THE WORLDS by Chris Claremont, Yong Montano and Dino Castrillo, TREASURE ISLAND by Bill Mantlo and Dino Castrillo and IVANHOE by Doug Moench and Jess Jodloman.

Marvel is presently in negotiation over the acquisition of some new properties to add to their line. Although nothing is set as yet, next time we should be able to give you some concrete news.

Dave Kraft and Roger Slifer are hitchhiking from New York to Oregon. Nothing too odd about that except that they are wearing huge signs proclaiming themselves to be Marvel Comics writers. Be on the lookout -- and pick 'em up at your own risk.

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National News

Jack C. Harris is writing a SUPERGIRL story which will involve Lex Luthor and the Viking I Mars Probe. Mike Vosburg will illustrate.

The SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS book will be taking a completely different direction, probably concerning The Wizard and the reasons for his leaving Earth II. In the meantime, old friend Captain Comet will re-establish his Adam Blake identity and get a job (hopefully one that doesn't interfere with his career).

Frank Springer inked that first issue of BLACK LIGHTNING and will probably remain inker of the book. Springer is also the current regular inker on Curt Swan's SUPERMAN.

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Let's see if we've got this straight -- the supporting cast of KAMANDI (everyone except Kamandi) will "meet" OMAC. Hmmm. Then, Kamandi will head across South America toward the Vortex. And, one of the supporting cast will die. (Gee, everyone seems to be dying lately...)

WELCOME BACK, KOTTER is now being drawn by Ric Estrada and Bob Oksner.

Vince Colletta inked an issue of SHAZAM! over Kurt Schaffenberger's pencils, and may continue as regular inker.

New DC writers: Jane Arune has done a JIMMY OLSEN tale, Bill Kunkel wrote a LOIS LANE and Paul Kupperberg has written a WORLD OF KRYPTON story.

Ramona Fradon will be taking over the art of SUPER FRIENDS as of #3.

Danny O'Neil is writing a book-length ISIS story.

DC
HERAKLESTUS -- THE GOD OF FIRE -- IS BACK AND NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STOP HIM!
30¢
NO. 227
JAN
Wonder Woman
-- INCLUDING YOU, WONDER WOMAN!
THE THEATERS ON FIRE, AND EVERYONE IN IT WILL DIE!

Well sports fans, Burt Reynolds is out and James Caan is in as Superman in the Salkind film. That is, if Caan gets out of his ankle cast he's wearing and they do a straighten and die job on him before filming begins.

Cary Bates is writing an issue of HERCULES UNBOUND. Simultaneously, the storyline will be considerably altered.

Mike Nasser has taken over the art on KOBRA with #6 after this month's Marty Pasko, Rich Buckler, Frank McLaughlin issue.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER will soon be done by Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Gerry Talaoc. And, instead of the backups we mentioned last issue, Lt. Larry Rock, The Fighting Devil Dog from OUR FIGHTING FORCES #95-98 and brother of a certain Sgt., will be the backup. Steve Skeates will script.

Some of us are anxiously awaiting the revival (!) of SUPERBOY in DC SUPER STARS #12 (we believe), since the story is to be 21 pages long, by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Murphy Anderson, and is said to be some of Swan's best work in some time. Featured in the story will be the Super Teacher, a robot educator built by Jor-El.

Air Wave, the Microphone Manhunter from DETECTIVE COMICS of the '40s, will return in an upcoming GREEN LANTERN. We wonder whether the Master of the Ether will be accompanied by Static, the Proverb Parrot.

Frank Springer inked the final issue of BLACKHAWK, #250.

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DC
GREEN LANTERN
GREEN ARROW
NO USE STRUGGLING! WE'RE CAUGHT!
AND IF YOUR BUDDY HISSES WE'RE DEAD!
A TALE DESTINED TO BE A CLASSIC!

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Returning in THE BATMAN FAMILY will be Killer Moth, The Cavalier -- and The Batwoman -- all in a tale by Bob Rosakis and Jose Garcia-Lopez.

Abra Cadabra returns in a future FLASH.

Earth II's The Fiddler will appear in TEEN TITANS, and the Titans will be getting a surprising new member. Also returning after a long absence is Joe Giella as inker of the book.

Dr. Tzin Tzin will return in BATMAN courtesy of David (Vern) Reed.

The Calculator saga will come to a conclusion in DETECTIVE COMICS #468, featuring Batman and all the heroes The Calculator has come up against.

John Calnan pencilled a BATMAN story for DETECTIVE and is working on a PRIVATE LIFE OF CLARK KENT tale for ACTION. LIFE

The first 50¢ JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA will be #139, will feature several old Hawkman foes, and will be by Steve Englehart and Dick Dillin.

National is now paying reprint money to all creators of old material that can be found.

Visual Publications

There are definite plans for a sequel to the STARFAWN issue of FICTION ILLUSTRATED, to appear sometime in 1977. Byron Preiss and Arthur Byrdn would be co-authors, Steve Fabian.

WEIRD HEROES #3 will be out September 15th and will feature QUEST OF THE

GYPSY by Ron Goulart and Alex Nino.

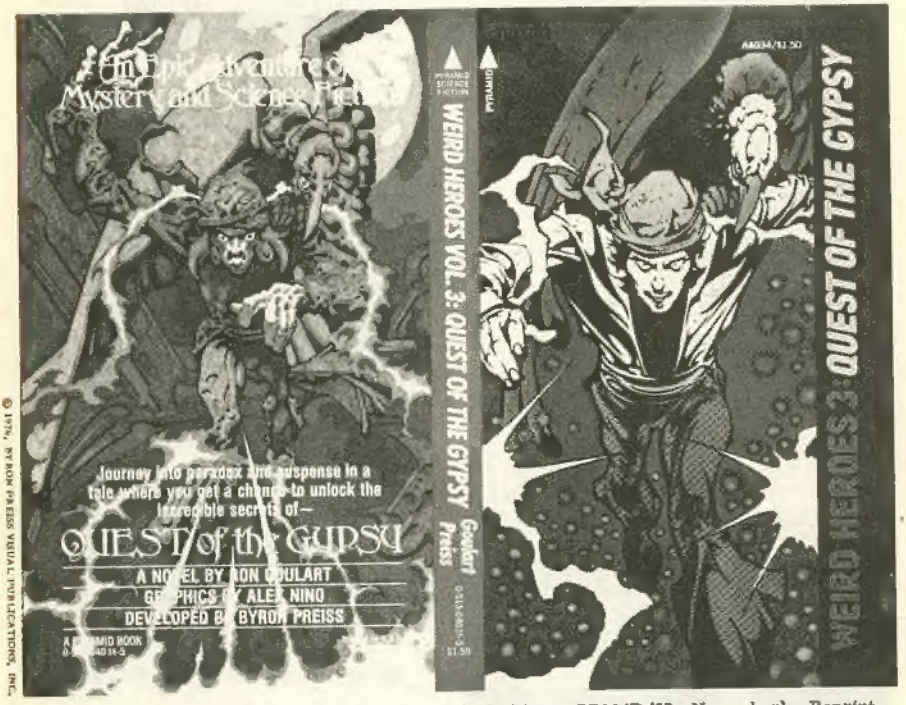
Also out in September will be the deluxe edition of Steranko's CHANDLER novel. The regular $1.00 edition is out this month.

Steranko may be doing some in-store autographing in New York this December.

Byron Preiss's NATLAMP strip "One Year Affair" will be going to color as will many of the other NATLAMP strips.

The fourth volume of WEIRD HEROES will feature NIGHTSHADE, written by Beth Meacham and Tappan King and illustrated by Rudy Nebres. The introduction is by Walter Gibson. The book will be out in October.

January will see Volume 5 of WEIRD HEROES, featuring DOC PHOENIX by Ted White and Marv Wolfman and illustrated by Steve Fabian, in an adventure entitled "The Ox Encounter." The cover is a painting by Jeff Jones.


WEIRD HEROES VOL. 3: QUEST OF THE GYPSY
Goulart
Preiss
WEIRD HEROES 3: QUEST OF THE GYPSY
Journey into paradox and suspense in a tale where you get a chance to unlock the terrible secrets of—
QUEST of the GYPSY
A NOVEL BY RON GOULART
GRAPHICS BY ALEX NINO
DEVELOPED BY BYRON PREISS

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Gold Key Coming Comics

Walt Disney DONALD DUCK (177, November). Reprint stories. (9/2)

WOODY WOODPECKER (155, November). New stories. (9/2)

Walt Disney CHIP 'N' DALE (43, November). Reprints. (9/2)

NEW TERRYTOONS (41, November). All new stories. (9/2)

THE LONE RANGER (27, December). New stories. (9/2)

Walt Disney UNCLE SCROOGE (134, November). Carl Barks reprints. (9/9)

GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES (35, November). New stories. (9/9)

THE INSPECTOR (12, November). New stories. (9/9)

Walt Disney SCAMP (32, November). Reprint stories. (9/9)

DAGAR THE INVINCIBLE (18, December). Story by Don Glut and Jesse Santos. (9/9)

BULLWINKLE (14, December). New stuff. (9/9)

Walt Disney DAISY AND DONALD (20, November). 25 pages of new material. (9/16)

TUROK, SON OF STONE (106, November). New stories by Paul S. Newman and Alberto Giolitti's studio. (9/16)

Walt Disney HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE (41, November). Reprints. (9/16)

LITTLE LULU (236, November). New stories. (9/16)

THE PINK PANTHER (39, November). New stuff drawn by Warren Tufts. (9/16)

STAR TREK (41, November). New story. (9/16)

BUGS BUNNY (178, November). New stories. (9/23)

TWEETY AND SYLVESTER (63, November). New stuff. (9/23)

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES (434, November). Half new and half reprints. (9/23)

Walt Disney BEAGLE BOYS (32, November). New stories. (9/23)

THE TWILIGHT ZONE (74, November). New stories. (9/23)

ANDY PANDA (16, November). New stories. (9/23)

KK GIVEAWAY (MARCH OF COMICS):
TWEETY AND SYLVESTER (421)
WACKY WITCH (422)

Warren Coming Comics

CREEPY (84, November). The all-sports issue features the following: A black baseball team in the South during the Depression story called "Hitter's Wind" by Roger McKenzie, Carmine Infantino and Walt Simonson; a science-fiction story about robotic baseball, "Relic" by McKenzie, Infantino and John Severin; a football-loving mummy finally gets his chance to play in a story by McKenzie and Richard Corben; disaster in a hockey stadium in Steve Englehart, Infantino and Dick Giordano's contribution; a West African zombie plays tennis in the story by David Michelinie, Infantino and Al Milgrom; plus either a basketball story by Bill DuBay and Infantino and an as-yet-undetermined inker, or "Home Stretch" which is about a haunted horserace and is by McKenzie and Leopold Sanchez. The cover is by Ken Kelley. (9/21)

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND (130, November). (9/23)

COLOR! SUPER COLLECTOR'S EDITION! COLOR!
VAMPIRELLA
SPECIAL SUMMER GIANT ISSUE WITH COLOR!
COLOR! ALL VAMPI STORIES, MORE ART!
BEST ISSUE EVER OF VAMPIRELLA CLASSICS!

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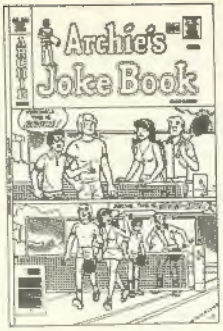
Continuity Assoc.

Neal Adams is doing some covers for DC. So far he's done a SUPERMAN, an ACTION, a JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA and a FLASH... The Super-Hero Stamps For Collectors being advertised in DC and Marvel comics will be available by September. There will be two albums, one for each company, with six packets of stamps for each... Mike Nasser and Bob Wiacek are doing a short LEGION story for the back of SUPERBOY... Two new additions to the Continuity Studios are Gary Winnec and Frank Cirocco, former publishers of a fanzine called VENTURE... Russ Heath is doing a strip for BRAVO Magazine called ZORK... Mike Nasser's KOBRA may be inked by Klaus Janson... Mike Hinge did the cover of an upcoming ANALOG... Dick Giordano did the covers for YOUNG LOVE #123 and 124.

EERIE (79, November). More sports! A football story leadsoff the issue and is by Bruce Jones, Carmine Infantino and Al Milgrom. The world blows up during a pleasure cruise in "The Pea-Green Boat" by Budd Lewis and Leopold Sanchez; "Third Person Singular" is the first of a three-parter about a world without women by Bruce Jones and Lewis Bermejo; Richard Corben's time-travel story continues as our heroes go back to retrieve the lost gun; "Time and Time Again" is by Bruce Jones; and part two of the Darklon series is "The Price" by Jim Starlin. The cover is by Ken Kelley. (9/23)

VAMPIRELLA (56, November). Stories in this issue include "The Headless Horseman Of Sleepy Hollow" by Bill DuBay and Jose Gonzalez; "Scruffy's Gargoyle" by DuBay and Leo Sanchez; "Cavalcade Of Monsters" by Gerry Boudreau and Ramon Torrents; "The Freelancer" by Bruce Jones and Jose Ortiz; and "Mute" by Jones and Luis Bermejo. The cover is by Enrich. (9/30)



Archie

ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK (226, November). (8/24)

BETTY AND VERONICA (251, November). (8/24)

PEP (319, November). (8/24)

LAUGH (308, November). (8/31)

LIFE WITH ARCHIE (175, November). (8/31)

JUGHEAD (258, November). (8/31)

LITTLE ARCHIE (112, November). (9/7)

MADHOUSE COMICS (105, November). (9/14)

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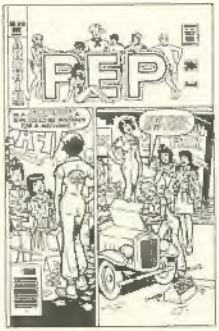

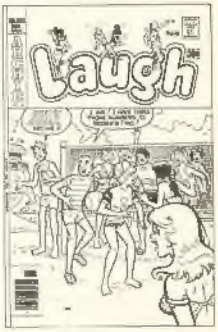

Media News

Dobry Wieczór, Bobby Vinton fans... With Marlon Brando and James Caan cast so far in the Salkind SUPERMAN film, Salkind is trying to get Gene Hackman for Lex Luthor. Wonder if he'll shave his head... Anyway, the budget (what a misnomer) has been raised to 25 million bucks. They say filming will start this fall. Bets are on Ellen Burstyn as Lois Lane... Okay, ABC picked up WONDER WOMAN's option and it'll be on in January. But -- there will be eleven hours worth, and it won't have a time slot, they'll be specials like the second two were. They'll pre-empt other shows, they'll be two hours, an hour and a half or hour in length. In short, it's still not a real series. Lynda Carter, Lyle Waggoner, Beatrice Colen (Etta Candy) and Richard Eastham will continue in their roles... On the Monty Python front, the Pythons have won their injunction against ABC's chopping up their fourth season shows for use in their WIDE WORLD slot. Unfortunately, that probably means we'll never see them -- unless ABC figures out how to do it without violating the court order. But there is another Python-related project in the works, JABBERWOCKY, a film loosely based on Lewis Carroll, to be written by Terry Gilliam, and to star Gilliam, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and Neal Innes, Pythons all. The plot concerns a "medieval Jaws... a vile and vicious monster ravaging the lands outside the walled kingdom of Bruno The Questionable." Apparently, the project does not preclude the life of Christ movie to be done by the Pythons... Marty Feldman's LAST REMAKE OF BEAU GESTE has cast Henry Gibson, Peter Ustinov, Avery Schreiber and Terry-Thomas to add to Feldman, Michael

York and Ann-Margret... That other British comedy, THE GOODIES, has been sold to the Eastern Educational Network, whatever that is. We won't get it in Wisconsin, that's all I know... The non-United Artists Bond film has been retitled WARHEAD, with apparently no legal hassles... Finally, to add to the DeLaurentiis KING KONG movie and the other one (if it's made), tinseltown will give us BABY KONG, a charming tale of Kong's illegitimate offspring, no doubt. Who can wait? -Rona Blabbit

Et Al

Warner Books is putting out a series of over-sized paperbacks on quality stock ranging in price from $2.95 from $7.95... among them will be DC COMICS SUPER-HEROES ORIGINS (probably a reprint of the SECRET ORIGINS OF THE SUPER DC HEROES), a MAD book and another MONTY PYTHON volume, among others.

TCR Message

This issue of TCR is being hurried out to get back on (or slightly ahead of) schedule, and to have this issue done in time to take along as we zip down to attend the Chicago Comicon on August 7th and 8th. If we don't see you there, see you next month in the pages of The COMIC READER! -Jerry

Review

We received a review copy of Mike Fleisher's ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMIC BOOK HEROES Vol. 1 (Batman), not to be confused with the $30 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE COMIC STRIP which we did not receive. Fleisher's book is very impressive; 387 pages, fine layouts and a minimum of factual and typographical errors. The book (softcover, $8.95, Macmillan) represents seven years of work on the part of Fleisher and Janet Lincoln, and the book is quite thorough in its listings of Batman's exploits through December, 1965 (with a few exceptions), cataloguing every character that appeared in every Batman adventure in DETECTIVE, WORLD'S FINEST and BATMAN. Okay, it makes interesting reading but it fails almost totally as a reference book of any worth. First of all, there is no complete listing of the stories published in those three titles (a partial listing IS included, but that only contains stories in which the Dynamic Duo fought certain characters listed in the book; those in which nothing important happened are omitted), so its value as an index is nil. For example, a nothing WORLD'S FINEST character, The Crimson Avenger, is only listed under his secret identity. The Penguin's real name is not listed because that was revealed in the daily comic strip in 1945. Specific Bat-gimmicks, like the S.S. Batman, can only be found by reading through a subsection in the Batman entry. These were just things I could think of to look up.

Realizing the enormousness of the project full well, I still wonder why it ends in 1965, why Batman's crossover appearances in JUSTICE LEAGUE, BRAVE AND BOLD, LOIS LANE and SUPERMAN aren't mentioned, and why Robin's STAR SPANGLED COMICS 76 issue run is overlooked completely. And, although the availability of the BATMAN daily and Sunday strips probably precluded their inclusion, some WERE reprinted in Annuals and could have been referred to. What exactly is the use of a book like this? Entertainment? As an encyclopedia, it falls a bit short.

One also has to wonder about the selection of WONDER WOMAN for Vol. 2. If Vol. 1 does sell, I'd wager WONDER WOMAN, a character with a very iffy sales potential anyway, kills it with its cataloguing of all of those silly stories from the forties. I wish Macmillan and Michael Fleisher all the luck in the world. - Andy Hildebrand

Charlton

A new book on the Charlton schedule, coming out in October, will be HAGAR THE HORRIBLE, taken from Dik Browne's newspaper strip.

THE FLINTSTONES (49, December). (9/2)

GHOST MANOR (32, December). The cover is by Rich Larson. (9/2)

GHOSTLY TALES (124, December). The cover is by Mike Zeck. (9/2)

JUST MARRIED (114, December). (9/2)

SARGE SNORKEL (17, December). The cover is by Mort Walker. (9/2)

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN (4, December). The cover is by Hector Castillion. (9/9)

EMERGENCY (4, December). The cover is by Joe Staton. (9/9)

LOVE DIARY (102, December). The cover is by Sururi Gumen. (9/9)

I LOVE YOU (121, December). The cover is by Jack Sparling. (9/9)

FIGHTIN' ARMY (127, December). (9/16)

BILLY THE KID (121, December). The cover is by Warren Satler. (9/16)

THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES (60, December). The cover's by Tom Sutton. (9/16)

GHOSTLY HAUNTS (53, December). With another Mike Zeck cover. (9/16)

SCOOBY DOO (11, December). The cover's by Bill Williams. (9/23)

VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS (11, December). The cover is by Bill Himes. (9/23)

BARNEY AND BETTY RUBBLE (23, December). (9/23)

PEBBLES AND BAMM-BAMM (36, December). (9/23)

THE PHANTOM (74, December). This is the final issue, a bicentennial story by Bill Pearson and Don Newton. The cover is by Newton. (9/30)

POPEYE (138, December). The cover is by George Wildman. (9/30)

MONSTER HUNTERS (9, January). (9/30)

SCARY TALES (9, January). (9/30)

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN Magazine (4, December). (9/30)

EMERGENCY Magazine (4, December). (9/30)

TCR Mailboat

JOE CARROLL, North Quincy, MA: Could Dave or someone else in New York find out what Archie intends to do with BLACK HOOD #1? (PRICE GUIDE says it was printed and dumped in a warehouse.)* Please, Please, Please!???!

(Maybe spokesmen from Archie could clear it up with a definitive, all-encompassing statement. The answer I've gotten is that the book is still in the drawer, from which I infer that it has not been printed. As I recall, the book was on the schedule, but I seriously doubt that Archie would print a book, then refuse to distribute it. Doesn't make much sense. MT)

CHARLES RYAN, Glendale, CA: Over the past few months I've piled up many questions which I hope your extensive backlog of knowledge can answer.

What is the reason for a lot of the thin-line-work in many DC Comics to become wavy? It's really a shame when you think of the care that people like Terry Austin put into the background art.

Why is DC no longer using yellow in conjunction with the red dots in the making of flesh tones? Is it an oversight or permanent policy? Those light pink faces make everyone look ill. Yecch!

Would it be possible for the comic companies to put four or eight more pages into their books, some of which would contain ads, in order to subsidize more pages of art?

In general, how much do comic writers and artists make per page? Has there been any ACTIVE move by the industry people to receive royalties and/or copyrights for their work?

In closing, reading of Street Enterprises financial problems, is there any possibilities that TCR might go under? I hope not. Your publication is a finely produced product which is without peer. Keep it up!

(I've decided to go out on a limb and risk showing my ignorance by answering your questions.

The reason for the deterioration of fine line art at DC is due to a changeover from their former plate-making process -- the thing from which the comic is printed -- to a new one. I believe the change was from metal plates to plastic or rubber, but I'm not exactly sure (because when I asked, that person wasn't sure either).

The absence of the light yellow from flesh tones is also a money-saving move by DC. Apparently, it saves them x number of dollars per title in coloring and separating costs.

Comic books are usually printed in sections of sixteen pages only. A four or eight page section has only been used in the past in side-stapled books like annuals that have many signatures of pages stapled together. The reason for the restriction is that the presses comics are printed on are set up for standard newspaper sized sheets, which accomodate eight pages a sheet per side. Binding, trimming and folding smaller sections is too costly.

Nobody has ever told me how much comic artists and writers make. Anything I would say would be a guess.

I'm sure people in the industry would love to have royalties and/or copyright control -- but the companies would obviously rather create their own new projects than purchase tion rights from the creators. DC did announce that they were paying for reprints (again; we thought it had been policy since '73) at the July New York convention. I am unsure of any other policies.

There is no danger of TCR going under. It makes money (shame, shame!) and helps us pay our bills. Besides, even if we were swept away by a tornado, there's always somebody somewhere who'll publish TCR. We are the seventh TCR publishers, y'know. MT)

FRANK TRAVELIN, JR., Jersey City, NJ: I have a few questions, which, if you can answer, will contribute greatly to the understanding of comic strip trends.

I assume that Warner Communications is the modern equivalent of Warner Brothers. If that is so, am I also correct in assuming that Warner licensed their lucrative LOONEY TUNES characters to Gold Key before they purchased National? When does their current contract end or require renewal? Can we expect, when this time comes that DC will pick up these characters? Also, exactly which companies are owned by Warner? By Cadence?

Now that Edgar Rice Burroughs' estate has terminated their contract with DC, who assumes ownership of the Joe Kubert-created material? Does DC have any leftover material and can this be printed under the same or an altered name (like BOMBA to SIMBA)? What about reprints?

If the TARZAN FAMILY was to be all-new, will the SUPER and BAT FAMILYs soon eliminate reprints? If not, why not?

What happens to all those projects announced and even promoted in the books that we never hear about or see again -- projects like MR. MIRACLE, KING ARTHUR, Kubert's BIBLE, DINGBATS, MANPHIBIAN, GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY, Wrightson's HOWARD THE DUCK stories, Red Circle's BLACK HOOD, NATIONAL COMICS (Uncle Sam), WEIRDWORLD and the first edition of SUPERMAN #1 (you can take them one at a time or perhaps cover them all with one inclusive answer).

In the cases of Captain Marvel, Scarecrow, and Sandman, even though Marvel may have the legal rights to these names, it is obvious that (especially with Cap) Marvel stole these names -- would DC really have little chance if their rights were contested in court? (What about Hasbro & Bulleman?)

Finally, I have a few suggestions for use in your Writer's Polls: Scott Taylor suggested that you ask writers' opinions on heroines treatment. I second that motion and wonder, what with Isis, The Bionic Woman, Police Woman and now Wonder Woman such successes on TV, not to mention that DC is now headed by a woman, whether they (or you) see a trend towards super-heroines in the near future, and whether or not they would rather write about a female character than a male. Secondly, with Archie Goodwin now editor of most of Marvel's books and Joe Orlando's having taken over the majority of DC's magazines, the age of individually edited mags seems to be over. I would like to know whether writers feel this one-man system is good for the unity it brings to a line or undesireable for its lack of variety. Finally, I'd like to know whether a writer

of a book with weak sales would prefer to see that book revamped, even into a type totally alien to the original intent (as with SWAMP THING) or (provided he knew that he would be assigned another title) whether he would prefer it to be cancelled.

I realize that some of these subjects may be beyond your powers, but I hope you can at least answer some.

P. S. Whay is Tim Trench of DETECTIVE COMICS identified as having appeared with WONDER WOMAN? The only detective to have appeared in the O'Neil issues was Jonny Double.

P. P. S. Why don't you ever poll the Artist's Side? Or, do you think that they are just opinionless drones who just draw what that are told to? And why are no writer/artists included in your Writer's Side, like Mike Grell, Jim Starlin, Rich Buckler, Joe Kubert, Jack Kirby? Do you think that they are not 'real' writers? Or, for that matter, why no Warren or Charlton writers?

(Well. Certainly have opened Pandora's Box this time, haven't we? Here goes --

Warner's contract on the Looney Tunes characters did expire in '74 or '75, but Infantino felt, perhaps rightly so, that they did not have the personnel at DC to handle the characters. DC's funny animal books had all been discontinued, and the artists had scattered. As the Gold Key books so amply show, the best done books are done by the former animators, who are mostly situated on the west coast. Having explained that, I would hazard a guess that when the contract again comes up for renewal in '78 or '79 or whenever, DC will jump at the chance to get Bugs and friends, probably hiring the necessary people to make the books work.

The reason the TARZAN FAMILY book was going to go all new was to save it. The other two FAMILY books may go all-new, but they HAVE been selling well enough, with reprints. We'll see.

But I am almost positive that you won't ever see the Kubert TARZAN material reprinted in any form in this country. Whoever ends up with the publishing rights for the comic will do their own stuff, and DC would be on thin ice altering the stories a la Bomba/Simba, opening themselves up for a lawsuit. There won't be any leftovers.

Speaking of which, I'm pretty sure neither DC or Marvel are interested in suing each other over characters such as you have mentioned. The Captain Marvel bit has been resolved satisfactorily for each company I believe, and that was the only big conflict. Lawsuits cost a lot of money even if you win -- and these are lawyer's arguments that fandom just caught wind of. I doubt that they ever came close to court.

Okay. The projects you have mentioned are in various states. MR. MIRACLE, KING ARTHUR, Kubert's BIBLE, GREEN ARROW AND BLACK CANARY and the SUPERMAN #1 reprint are probably just waiting to be scheduled. They are not dead issues as far as I know. On the other hand, I doubt we'll see DINGBATS in a color comic (it may end up in the AMAZING WORLD OF DC). MANPHIBIAN appeared in the LEGION OF MONSTERS black and white last year and is apparently gone the way of the other Marvel monsters. Wrightson never finished a HOWARD THE DUCK. I already mentioned BLACK HOOD. NATIONAL COMICS was apparently supplanted by FREEDOM FIGHTERS (which has Uncle Sam), and WEIRDWORLD may or may not be on the shelf -- Mike Ploog is gone anyhow. And Hasbro paid DC.

We'll consider the Writer's Side questions. My opinion of the female super-hero question is that it will take a major rethinking on the part of both DC and Marvel before we will see a female super-hero comic that is both commercial and appealing. Some (RED SONJA and the writing on WONDER WOMAN lately) come close, but -- and I guess this is true of all characters, male and female -- we have yet to see a major superstar come out of the '70s' creations. My guess is that it won't happen until more women comics writers get into the mainstream.

As I recall (and I'd check, but the comics aren't readily handy right now) that Tim Trench appeared in the Sekowsky-edited issues of WONDER WOMAN, that were scripted by O'Neil.

And finally, the reason we don't have an Artist's Side as well as a Writer's Side is not because we consider the writers more intelligent or lucid or anything as exotic as that. It's merely that the questions are put to the writers at the DC and Marvel offices on the one day David Finger is there a month. He questions whoever is there, which means that some writers are missed because they aren't at the office at exactly the right time. Artists spend even less time at the offices than the writers and therefore aren't there for Finger to ask, it's as simple as that. The writer/artists you mention apparently aren't in the offices at the right time. We welcome artist comment, and invited it in some of the early Writer's Side columns, but nobody responded. Warren writers don't hang around the offices either -- and Charlton's offices are in Connecticut, a little off of David's beat. MT)

JIM VADEBONCOEUR, JR., Palo Alto, CA: Just read your COMMENT in TCR #132 and it's prompted me to write my first 'letter of comment' to a fanzine (or any magazine, for that matter) since I got a "No-Prize' for a letter in Marvel's DAREDEVIL #50-something-or-other.

I heartily concur with your feelings about the GUIDE. I believe it to be one of the more (if not the most) important pieces of reference work ever compiled in the field of comics. It's done more to sort out the history of the medium than any of a dozen books by ex-artists in the field. It would be priceless, if it were only that: Price-less.

You struck close to the nail's head when you claim that the Dealers (capitol 'D' goes along with the one in Dollars) are an incestuous lot, building fairy-tale castles of incredible cost but little value, but you missed the real crux of the PRICE GUIDE's failing.

With the onslaught of the capital D-Dealer, with the retail outlet and the steady income from the sale of new comics and books, we, the lower case c-collectors, are faced with the new phenomenon of ads being placed with no intention of selling comics. By this I mean that many Dealers are now placing ads featuring outrageously-priced comics that they have little hope or even intention of unloading via that particular ad. Because the GUIDE arrives at each year's prices

by "averaging the advertised price of the comic over the past year," these Dealers are deliberately overpricing the books this year in order to influence the averaging in next year's GUIDE. Because they aren't reliant on selling the books to earn a living (many have other jobs or operate out of an established bookstore that pays the overhead) they can afford to wait a year or so until their questionably-valued $10.00 comic actually achieves the Overstreet sanction at that price. So what if no one bought the book at that price in 1975. So what if no one even advertised it other than that Mr. Bookstore-owener/part-time-Dealer. So what if you could find it at any convention for $2.00. If this guy's ads were persistant and brazen enough, they'll be the criterion by which the 1976 price is figured. These damn Dealers are dictating the market and Overstreet is falling for it.

A case in point (perhaps not typical, but certainly obvious enough) is the ad in the back of the 1976 GUIDE by a person named Theo Holstein. (Person is as nice as I can get, having met him.) Here is this person ADVERTISING (damn sure not selling!) books like SPIDER-MAN #1 for $500.00!! (over three times the current "price"), RED RAVEN #1 for $3,000 (over four times the '76 suggested "price" and MORE FUN #53 for $3,000 (FIVE times the listed price in the self-same book in which the ad appears) --!!! Now I do admit that this is an exaggerated case, but the point is that Overstreet, by his own criterion for determining prices, is obligated to take these fictitious prices into consideration for next year's GUIDE. And since the books are rare, there aren't going to be that many advertised in all of 1976, so guess how much weight gets put on Theo Holstein's trumped up prices? I shudder to think of it.

Again, and once more, I say that Theo Holstein is an extreme case, but the basic principle is being used by dozens of Dollar-eyed Dealers in every single issue of THE BUYER'S GUIDE. Mark up the prices, don't worry about selling the books just make sure Mr. Overstreet gets to see the ad. Next year's soon enough.

I won't attempt to go into the various ways some dealers have of inventing artists' credits for books, jacking up the price and then getting the GUIDE to list the artists as being in the book. Even after someone writes in who has some knowledge about artists and tells Overstreet that the artist really didn't do anything in that book, never worked for that company, and in fact hadn't even been born at the time the book was published, the price never quite goes down to the level of the other issues of that title. Neat way to increase your inventory value, eh wot?

Sad to say all this, but our hobby will never be the same. My only response to this price-fixing is to hold out for the VALUE I place on the comic, not the "Price" the Dealers and Mr. Overstreet have given us to believe is the real value. DON'T BUY A COMIC AT A PRICE YOU THINK IS UNREASONABLE. That's the only means of protest. We've got to use and use it and use it. I'd love to have some of the books that are going for $20.00 and $30.00, but I refuse, and will continue to do so, to pay those kinds of prices for comics. All I can ask is that you extoll your readership to boycott exorbitant prices and Dealers that use them.

The other means of protest and protection we can offer is to refuse to contribute information to the PRICE GUIDE. I have been a constant contributor since the first edition, but in the last three years I've limited my contribution to the correction of mis-identified artists. I will no longer give the GUIDE any information that might possibly result in the increased valuation of the comic. I'll do everything I can to correct publication data and dates, but my efforts with regard to artists are limited to pointing out the books that don't have the artists listed in the GUIDE. A minor protest, I agree, but at least it gives the interested collector a chance to find that uncatalogued Toth or Crandall that the Dealer wouldn't recognize unless it was signed and he knew how to read.

(Some dealers at the New York con in July actually chopped some prices for stuff that didn't sell! Admittedly, not many of these were the Plastic-Bagged-Dealers (METAL MEN #23 for $2.50), but perhaps it shows something. What gets me is that every year I raise my cut-off price for the highest price I'll pay for say a 50s DC western or crime book. I go to a convention only to find that the books have inexplicably tripled or quadrupled in value! "The book was under-priced last year," will be the response. Bull. The book was only getting what it was worth last year. Now it doesn't get anything because I won't buy it.

Bob Overstreet isn't out to maliciously ruin our hobby, I know. But sometimes, in context, you've got to wonder. A friend of mine sent in an entry for a DICK TRACY giveaway from the thirties which was not listed previously. Although he's a dealer, he gave no price. Mysteriously, the book was suddenly worth $20.00! It's possible that another may have turned up that year, but... It's certainly a coalition, organized or not, by people who wish to make their "investments" pay off. And all because the Wall Street JOURNAL suggested that comics would be a safe market to sink your money into. They're right. The prices NEVER go down. Never. MT)

WARREN BLUHM, Ripon, WI: On your Gold Key catalogue, I own a copy of what the PRICE GUIDE probably means by CAPTAIN JOHNER & THE ALIENS #1. It bears the same computer number (10216-712) as THE ALIENS as listed in your catalogue and the indicia says simply THE ALIENS No. 1 -- but it also says Second Printing. I purchased it in 1972. Essentially, it's the sameas the 1967 edition except for the addition of those two words on page one. In TCR you don't acknowledge this, so I figured I'd pass it along just in case. I got it while I was still living in New Jersey -- could it be that it was only distributed around New York?
P.S. I could also swear I've read THE OWL #3 somewhere, but I've no idea when and where. It wasn't a particularly memorable book.

ROB SCHMIEDER, Concord MA: I don't know how to express my gratitude for the Gold Key checklist in the new issue of TCR. It is truly a labor of love, considering the diversity of the GK output, and the scarcity of fan-generated information on the line. From my meagre collection (and your list showed me how truly meagre it is!) I was only able to find two corrections to be made:

1) The code number 30030 was assigned to an 80 page 25¢ reprint giant called THE BEST OF UNCLE SCROOGE AND DONALD DUCK (not to be confused with THE BEST OF DONALD DUCK AND UNCLE SCROOGE) No. 1, dated 611. Thus GK put out DD/US reprint giants four years in a row, the first three having different titles and the fourth having the same title as the first.
2) The last 25¢ issue of WALT DISNEY CHRISTMAS PARADE is No. 8, with the cover code 30018-101. It is 32 pages with a poster, so perhaps you saw a different edition sans poster, as noted in your commentary.

I would not be so hasty as to doubt the "phantom" Gold Keys you named. In particular, I am almost positive I once owned a GK issue of RUFF 'N' REDDY. Perhaps other GK fans, more avid than myself and less careless about losing back issues will be able to fill the few gaps in your list.

Please don't scoff at the later Dells. Frank Springer, the unfairly neglected artist who did SECRET SIX for DC and numerous parodies for NATIONAL LAMPOON, did some very creative stuff for Dell.

You are doing great things with TCR, of which the July-August issue was a splendid example. The checklist is the most valuable piece of comics scholarship to come out this year, and capped off the issue. The story was very enjoyable, as were the other features. I wish you the best of luck in your continuing battle with bankruptcy, and hope your two newspapers will continue to survive.

(Thank you, Warren and Rob. I think it's obvious why I missed the 1972 ALIENS book, if there were no external differences with the original. I wonder if this is the only reprint? Hmmm... As to the DD/US giant, I was sure the PRICE GUIDE had simply made an error there. And since the GUIDE lists a 1967 80 page version of LADY AND THE TRAMP, I assumed that the book filled the 30030 space. Does anybody have the LADY giant? And please, if you haven't already, go through your own Gold Key collections to see if we can track down those other phantom books or numbers. MT)

HOWARD P. SIEGEL, Yonkers, NY: Thanks for helping me carry the banner that cries for the return to the fandom of olde. For the last several years I've been asking the same question, only to be criticised for it. I've been accused of being overly sophisticated, living in the past for the sake of a small group who, although they were responsible for starting panelology, have outlived their purpose. What's happened to this hobby? It's lost its leadership.

The Weingroffs, Saunders, Jones, Millers, Johnsons, Whites. They're all gone. Those who've succeeded them drifted into the professional ranks, where one's attitudes (by economic necessity) are changed. Your reasoning that the lure of the dollar made comic collecting a business rather than a pleasant pasttime is absolutely correct. Commercialism crept in from all sides and engulfed the purism of comic art. The RB*CC of Gordon Love's time has been transformed into a STAR TREK vehicle with more people asking questions about television and the movies than they are about comics. I wouldn't dare fill my column with old material because today's readership has indicated that they aren't interested in the topics that once had been the manna that fed our hobby. And we aren't being helped by the urge for collectibles and things nostalgic that the news media tells us is the "in" thing to be buying for the sake of being "with it." As long as the trend lasts, so will the dealer cult prevail. And this group doesn't want a fandom that will forego a high-priced comic for a fanzine that outlines the history of that comic for a fraction of the cost. A $1.00 reprint gives the same aesthetic value and historic significance as the $1000.00, ragged, faded original. But how long will our pocketbooks allow us to preach this truism? Who better than Jerry and yourself realize this.

Perhaps the only answer is to let the present system run its course until it is played out. Then we can only hope that a new generation can be cultivated by discovering the works of a Jerry Bails, Mike Nolan or Texas Trio and thumb their nose at a huckster sitting behind a bridge table at a convention with the material but not the common sense to realize that it's a new ballgame. I don't think that this can be called wishful thinking. I'd rather take the stand that a change in values within the comic collecting community is on its way.

(My -- our -- stand is not particularly courageous. Everybody wants something for less. I don't protest high prices per se, rather high prices with no reason, i.e., this comic is old, therefore valuable. I would simply like to see a return to the mostly mythical supply-demand pricing that once ruled. I wish I were as confident as you that this will happen, Howard.)

MICHAEL BIEGEL, Upper Saddle River, NJ: I found your opinion on the current prices and conventions very interesting because it brings up a most intriguing issue. In fact, there are many angles to consider, like the collecting fan, the dealer, and just the occasional buyer. I'll take the collector's notion.

Here, located right next to New York, I attend the NY cons and as it appears, the dealers seem to do quite well with their sales. Since I've worked with a professional who makes his living selling comics I can affirm this. Of course, he needs other outputs like a store, but he deals mostly with neighbors, the cons and the occasional ad. From your description of the atmosphere of the Triple Fan Fair, the spectacle wasn't so spectacular. I receive another undeluding feeling with this gala activity.

As for myself, being a collector, I find that striving to make the money for a special, high-priced comic I want is very satisfactory. "Work is Love Made Visible," remember! And what would we do if every comic book was a quarter apiece, recent and old? There might not be any enthusiasm and what could we aspire for... professional work and practice? Maybe, but I still notice myself working for that "love" and possibly a future in what is the most enticing and audacious hobby of all. Maybe I'll never get that FANTASTIC FOUR #1 but if and when I do I'll know I tried my best and made the most fun out of it. (Listen to me. I'm making comic collecting and intellectual avocation... hmmm, maybe it is.)

Anyway, I'm a true fan and all this opinion-trading is truly fandom!

(It wouldn't bother me a bit if all comics, new and old, cost a quarter. After I've purchased a comic, I remove whatever price may be on

(continued on page 19)

ST Pocket Checklist

September 1976

Marvel

- ☐ ADVENTURES ON PLANET OF APES #11
- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #163
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #154
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #204
- ☐ THE CHAMPIONS #9
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #69
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #140
- ☐ THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #29
- ☐ THE DEFENDERS #42
- ☐ DOC SAVAGE #6
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #20
- ☐ THE ETERNALS #6
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #177
- ☐ THE GHOST RIDER #21
- ☐ HOWARD THE DUCK #7
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #206
- ☐ THE INHUMANS #8
- ☐ THE INVADERS #11
- ☐ IRON FIST #10
- ☐ IRON MAN #93
- ☐ KA-ZAR #19
- ☐ KID COLT OUTLAW #2.3
- ☐ KULL THE DESTROYER #18
- ☐ MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE #19
- ☐ MARVEL PRESENTS #8
- ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #33 (Kane)
- ☐ MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #31 (Fury)
- ☐ MARVEL TALES #74
- ☐ MARVEL TEAM-UP #52
- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #22
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #47
- ☐ NOVA #4
- ☐ PETER PARKER, SPECTACULAR SPIDEY #1
- ☐ PLANET OF THE APES #26
- ☐ POWERMAN #38
- ☐ SON OF SATAN #7
- ☐ SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #20
- ☐ SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP #9
- ☐ THOR #254
- ☐ TOMB OF DRACULA #51
- ☐ 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY #1
- ☐ WEIRD WONDER TALES #19
- ☐ THE X-MEN #102

Charlton

- ☐ BARNEY AND BETTY RUBBLE #23
- ☐ BILLY THE KID #121
- ☐ EMERGENCY #4
- ☐ EMERGENCY Magazine #4
- ☐ FIGHTIN' ARMY #127
- ☐ THE FLINTSTONES #49
- ☐ GHOST MANOR #32
- ☐ GHOSTLY HAUNTS #53
- ☐ GHOSTLY TALES #124
- ☐ I LOVE YOU #121
- ☐ JUST MARRIED #114
- ☐ LOVE DIARY #102
- ☐ THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES #60
- ☐ MONSTER HUNTERS #9
- ☐ PEBBLES AND BAMM BAMM #36
- ☐ THE PHANTOM #74
- ☐ POPEYE #138
- ☐ SARGE SNORKEL #17
- ☐ SCARY TALES #9
- ☐ SCOOBY DOO #11
- ☐ SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN #4
- ☐ SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN Magazine #4
- ☐ VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS #11

National

- ☐ ACTION COMICS #466
- ☐ BATMAN #282
- ☐ THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD #131
- ☐ DC SPECIAL #25
- ☐ DC SUPER STARS #10 (Sports)
- ☐ DETECTIVE COMICS #466
- ☐ G.I. COMBAT #197
- ☐ GREEN LANTERN #92
- ☐ HERCULES UNBOUND #8
- ☐ HOUSE OF MYSTERY #248
- ☐ HOUSE OF SECRETS #143
- ☐ ISIS #2
- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #137
- ☐ KAMANDI #48
- ☐ METAL MEN #49
- ☐ OUR ARMY AT WAR #299
- ☐ RAGMAN #3
- ☐ STARFIRE #3
- ☐ STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES #203
- ☐ SUPERBOY #222
- ☐ SUPER FRIENDS #2
- ☐ SUPER-HEROES BATTLE SUPER-GORILLAS #1
- ☐ SUPERMAN #306
- ☐ SUPER-TEAM FAMILY #8
- ☐ TARZAN #256
- ☐ TEEN TITANS #46
- ☐ WARLORD #4
- ☐ WELCOME BACK, KOTTER #2
- ☐ THE WITCHING HOUR #67
- ☐ WONDER WOMAN #227
- ☐ WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #242

Warren

- ☐ CREEPY #84
- ☐ EERIE #79
- ☐ FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND #130
- ☐ VAMPIRELLA #56

National Lampoon

- ☐ NATIONAL LAMPOON #79

Gold Key

- ☐ ANDY PANDA #16
- ☐ BEAGLE BOYS #32
- ☐ BUGS BUNNY #178
- ☐ BULLWINKLE #14
- ☐ CHIP 'N' DALE #43
- ☐ DAGAR THE INVINCIBLE #18
- ☐ DAISY AND DONALD #20
- ☐ DONALD DUCK #177
- ☐ GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES #35
- ☐ HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE #41
- ☐ THE INSPECTOR #12
- ☐ LITTLE LULU #236
- ☐ THE LONE RANGER #27
- ☐ NEW TERRYTOONS #41
- ☐ THE PINK PANTHER #39
- ☐ SCAMP #32
- ☐ STAR TREK #41
- ☐ TUROK, SON OF STONE #106
- ☐ TWEETY AND SYLVESTER #63
- ☐ THE TWILIGHT ZONE #74
- ☐ UNCLE SCROOGE #134
- ☐ WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES #434
- ☐ WOODY WOODPECKER #155

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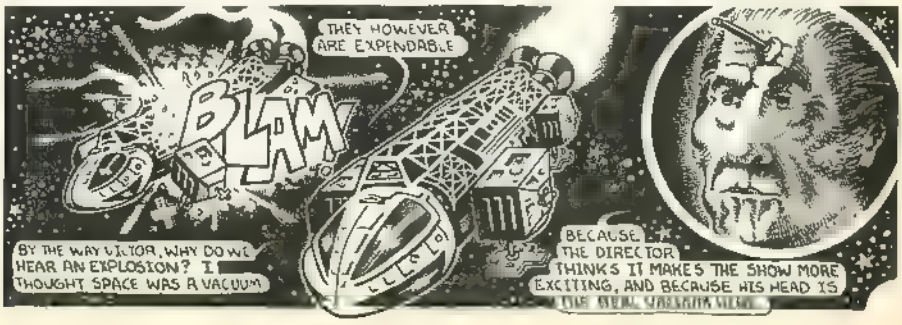
An Interview With—

NEAL ADAMS


BLAM
THEY HOWEVER ARE EXPENDABLE
BY THE WAY VICTOR, WHY DO WE HEAR AN EXPLOSION? I THOUGHT SPACE WAS A VACUUM
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it. Unless it's an extreme bargain -- 4¢ for ALL STAR WESTERN #114, say -- I don't want to remember. Of course, if all comics were a quarter, none of the comic shops that exist for the benefit of collectors would still exist, at least on their current scale. MT)

MICKEY SCHWABEROW, Santa Rosa, CA: Since you wrote the Gold Key capsule history in TCR #133, I thought you'd be the one to ask. Who edits their adventure titles? (MAGNUS, DARGAR, GRIMM'S, etc.) As no indication is given in the indicia, I've always wondered. I'm interested from the standpoint of submitting stories and art, so anything about their policy toward outside contribution would be appreciated. Or steer me towards any recent fanzine articles that would shed some light. Three cheers for your remarks in #132 about the PRICE GUIDE!

(Since I don't have any more idea of who edits what then you do, I opted to print this here instead of giving you a personal reply in the hopes that someone at Western would write and tell us. I would think that you would have to write Gold Key's editorial offices personally to find out their submission policies. MT)

GREG ROBERTSON, Des Moines, IA: I enjoyed most of the summer special. This is the first time I've written to TCR, but this ish was, of course, special. One news item I do want to comment on is the SUPERMAN-MUHAMMAD ALI book. You guys were just fooling around, weren't you? PLEASE say you were just fooling around! Cause, being a SUPERMAN completist, I'd hafta buy it -- and I can't stand Ali, king of the loudmouths.

The Gold Key history was good and something that's been needed a long time. To me, GK was always #2 in the early '60s, behind DC and clearly above Marvel, et al, especially as regards printing and paper. GK and DC were then the elite -- as far as I was concerned anyway. And still are in many ways.

The Warren interview had SOME good stuff, but I was not much interested in Jim Warren acting like Don Rickles. At least it showed him as the asshole he is, especially when he claims to be the great inovator of comics, which he sure as hell ain't. His early efforts were good, but his stuff today is so cruddy that anyone reading them must be masochistic. Except for THE SPIRIT, which Warren has no artistic control over.

The only really bad thing was the comic strip -- ugh! I dislike most ama-strips and this was no exception. I hope you never make a mistake like that again.

(Readers of the current MEDIASCENE (#19, $1.50 from Supergraphics, Box 455, Wyomissing, PA)will find the whole story of the fruition of the SUPERMAN-ALI bit. It's for rsal, Greg. Sorry you didn't like the strip. MT)

JIM DAWSON, JR., Sterling, VA: In Marv Wolfman's reply to your Warren interview, a little more restraint on Marv's part would have definitely been the better part of valor. In cases like this, fighting fire with fire only serves to put both parties on the same level of childishness.

Specifically, Marv's rather crude remark about wishing Jim the best of success, and hoping he enjoys masturbating -- an idea which he returns to later by telling Warren to give himself "an extra stroke or two."

Come on, Marv -- I'll agree that Warren's image is not one of smiling benevolence to fans everywhere, but you could have at least kept your comments on a mature level. Doing something one enjoys doing doesn't always constitute "masturbation" and the fact that you said what you did will only further some people's opinion that Marvel is just as comics factory whose only concern is with money.

I don't buy any Warren books, mainly because I personally don't care for Jim Warren's reputation and don't enjoy his books that much in the first place. I was hoping, however, that Marvel could have used a more objective spokesman to defend it against Warren's statements.

MAD News

The father of a fifth grade student in a Las Vegas elementary school recently won $1.25 in damages from his daughter's teacher for destroying her copy of MAD Magazine.

According to reports, the teacher confiscated the copy of the magazine from the girl and tore it to shreds. Her father, who noted that the publication was purchased at the school book fair, and obviously was sanctioned by the school, demanded restitution.

When the teacher refused to pay, the father sued and won. Said the judge, "Our little children have all kinds of rights these days and they must be upheld." (from FOCUS '76, Independent News' House Organ)

Since the cover price of MAD is still only 50¢, we must assume the extra 75¢ was awarded for mental anguish.

National Coming Comics

OUR ARMY AT WAR (299, December). Sgt. Rock appears in another story by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert and Frank Redondo. Plus, a Gallery Of War story by Kanigher and Ric Estrada is featured. The cover is by Kubert. (9/2)

KAMANDI (48, December-January). The cure for the violence virus is found -- but it's aboard Pyra's spacecraft and Kamandi is miles below, fighting for his life against Sacker's men in this Denny O'Neil, Dick Ayers, Ernie Chua and Alfredo Alcala book-lengther. The cover is by Chua and Alcala. (9/2)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (137, December). The wrap-up of the triple-earth battle against Kull includes action with two Flashes, two Green Lanterns, Ibis The Invincible and Mercury, plus the concluding chapter featuring Superman, The Marvel Family and Johnny Thunder. All of this is in "Crisis In Tomorrow" by Nelson Bridwell, Marty Pasko, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. The cover is by Ernie Chua and McLaughlin. (9/2)

STARFIRE (3, December-January). Starfire gains a new ally named Thump and an enemy called Moonwatcher in "The Arena Of The Frost Dragon" by Elliot Maggin, Mike Vosburg and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Vosburg and Colletta. (9/2)

ISIS (2, December-January). The TV heroine tackles "The Creature From Dimension X" in a story by Steve Skeates, Mike Vosburg and Vince Colletta, then visits a "Political Rally Panic" in the second story by Skeates, Mike Nasser and Frank Giacoia. The cover is by Vosburg and Colletta. (9/7)

SUPERMAN (306, December). Bizarro is back and he's joined forces with The Toyman to attack The Man Of Steel in 'The Backward Battle For The Bizarro World' by Marty Pasko, Curt Swan and Bob Oksner. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Oksner. (9/7)

BATMAN (282, December). Three mysterious men -- one mysterious murderer? Batman is trying to discover the missing links in the case, but instead he finds "Four Doorways To Danger" by David Vern Reed, Ernie Chua and Tex Blaisdell. The cover is by Chua and Colletta. (9/7)

BATTLING TO SURVIVE ON EARTH AFTER DISASTER...
DC
30¢
KAMANDI
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!
THE MOST UNEXPECTED BETRAYAL OF ALL... FORCES KAMANDI INTO THE FEARSOME FANGS OF SKAGGRA!

HOUSE OF SECRETS (143, December-January). The stories in this issue include: 'Witch Blood" by Jack Oleck, Ernie Chua and Bill Draut, "The Evil Side" by Steve Skeates and Ruben Yandoc, and "The Experiment" by Skeates and Vicente Alcazar. In addition, there's Able's Fables by Don Edwing and Dave Manak and the cover by Jack Sparling and Vince Colletta. (9/9)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (203, December-January). The final David Michelinie and Gerry Talaoc issue featuring Unknown Soldier is appropriately titled "Curtain Call" (but not for the Unknown Soldier, we assume). Plus, "Flight To Glory" By Jack Oleck, Pablo Marcos and Bob Smith. The cover is by Jack Sparling and Vince Colletta. (9/9)

DC SPECIAL (25, December-January). The Three Musketeers continue their exploits in another story by Bob Haney, Jack Sparling and John Calnan. Reprints include Robin Hood and The Viking Prince. The cover is by Luis Domingues. (9/9)

DC
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THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM...
THE HOUSE OF SECRETS
DID YOU FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK, ROGER?
EVEN THE MOST INNOCENT CHILD HAS AN "EVIL SIDE!"

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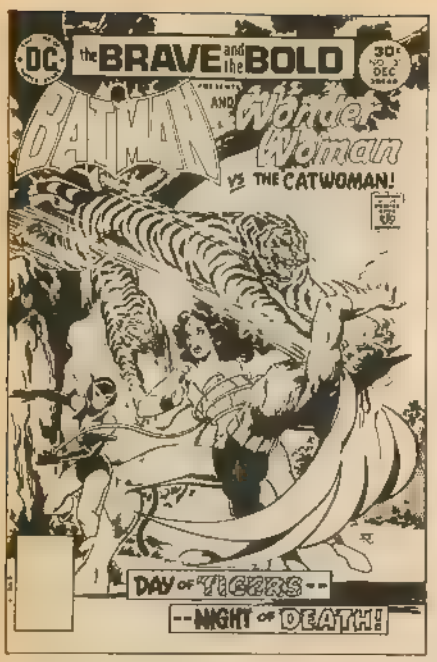

WELCOME BACK, KOTTER (2, December). Practical jokes are the rage and Epstein s the joker, but will he get the last laugh? Kotter's latest adventure is by Elliot Maggin,

Jack Sparling and Bob Oksner. The cover is by Oksner. (9/14)

THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (131, December). Batman and Wonder Woman are hot on the trail of an international coding device, political intrigue and the deadly menace of The Catwoman in "Take Seven Steps To Wipe-Out" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. The cover is by Aparo. (9/14)

GREEN LANTERN (92, December-January). Travel back to the past to the days of Robin Hood and learn "The Legend Of Green Arrow by Denny O'Neil and Mike Grell. The cover is by Grell. (9/14)

SUPERBOY (222, December). The Time Trapper returns with his most devilish plan in "No One Escapes The Trap In Time" by Jim Shooter, Mike Grell and Bob Wiacek. The cover is by Grell. (9/16)

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NO 243
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WORLD'S FINEST
YOUR SONS DOWN, BATMAN! MY BOY WILL SAVE HIM!
NO, SUPERMAN! YOUR SON'S LOST HIS SUPER POWERS! HE'S AT THE MERCY OF...
THE TOWN OF TIMELESS KILLERS!

THE WARLORD (4, December-January). Mike Grell's one man show continues as Travis runs into more adventure in Inner-earth. The cover is by Grell. (9/16)

SUPER-HEROES BATTLE SUPER-GORILLAS (1, Winter). Monkey-lovers unite behind this novel idea for a comic book one-shot as Superman faces "The Super-Gorilla From Krypton" by Wayne Boring, Batman squares off against "The Gorilla Boss Of Gotham City" plus The Flash stars in Grodd Puts The Squeeze On The Flash by John Broome, Carmine Infantino and Sid Greene. The cover is by somebody. (9/16)

RAGMAN (3, December-January). The Tattered Tatterdemalion (love that name!) encounters danger in "See No Evil..." by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert and the Redondo Studios. The cover is by Kubert. (9/21)

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HERCULES UNBOUND (8, December-January). An old lady wages war against a mysterious opponent in "Game" by David Michelinie, Walt Simonson and Wally Wood. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Wally Wood. (9/21)

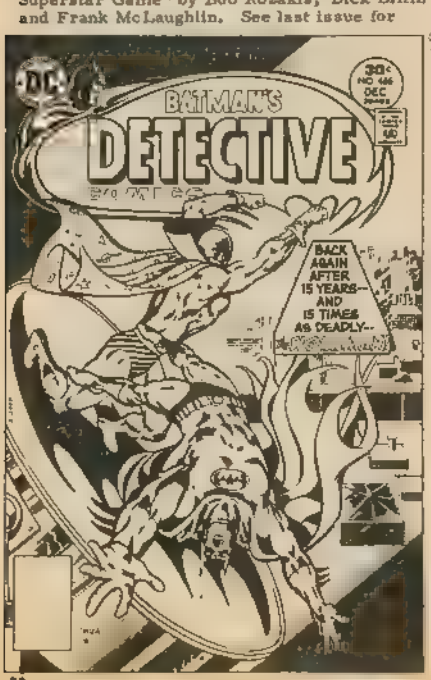
METAL MEN (49, December-January). Umbra is here to claim the Earth, and since the Metal Men couldn't stop his servant Eclipso, how do they stop him? "The Dark God Cometh" is by Marty Pasko and Walt Simonson. The cover is by Simonson. (9/21)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (242, December). The Super-Sons make their final appearance in "The Town Of Timeless Heroes" by Bob Haney, Ernie Chua and John Calnan. The cover is by Chua and Calnan. (9/23)

HOUSE OF MYSTERY (248, December). "The Night Jamie Gave Up The Ghost" he grew up -- or did he? David Michelinie wrote that one, and Luis Domingues illustrated it. Plus, Jack Oleck and Ruben Yandoc teamed up to do "The Vampire" in the second story. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Vince Colletta. (9/23)

SUPER FRIENDS (2, December). There's a traitor in the Hall Of Justice and only Wonder Dog knows who it is so the Super Friends are bound to be "Trapped By The Super-Foes" in this issue by E. Nelson Bridwell, Ric Estrada, Joe Orlando and Vince Colletta. The cover is by persons unknown. (9/23)

DC SUPER STARS (10, December). A new collection of STRANGE SPORTS STORIES begins with an unusual story featuring nine super-heroes vs. super-villains in the wildest baseball team of all time, "The Great Superstar Game" by Bob Rozakis, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. See last issue for



DC
HAUNTED TANK
G.I. COMBAT
WE'RE FLOATING OUT OF RANGE OF THE RESULTS OF CANNON FIRE
BUT RIGHT ON THE MUZZLES OF THOSE WAITING TANKS!

team members. The backup is a GREEN LANTERN reprint, "Battle For The Championship Of The Universe" by John Broome, Gil Kane and Sid Greene. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Vince Colletta. (9/23)

THE WITCHING HOUR (67, December-January). This issue features three stories about which we have no information. The cover is equally ambiguous. (9/28)

TEEN TITANS (45, December). Mal (as The Guardian) receives a new power, Aqualad rejoins the team and the Titans face a street gang called The Wreckers in "You Can't Say No To The Angel Of Death (Or Can You?)" by Bob Rozakis, Irv Novick and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Vince Colletta. (9/28)

G.I. COMBAT (197, December). The Haunted Tank again faces fire in another story by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman, plus a backup is by Bart Regan and Ric Estrada. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (9/28)

TARZAN (256, December). Concluding the adaptation of TARZAN THE UNTAMED which has run to seven parts is "The End Of The Quest" by Denny O'Neil and Rudy Florese. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Alfredo Alcala. (9/28)

WONDER WOMAN (227, December-January). The showdown with Hephaestus and a turning point in a human life face Wonder Woman in "My World...In Ashes" by Marty Pasko, Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Colletta. (9/30)

DETECTIVE COMICS (466, December). An old villain returns as "The Signalman Steals The Spotlight" in a story by Len Wein and

Ernie Chua. Then, Green Arrow tangles with The Calculator during the World Series in "Take Me Out Of The Ball Game" by Bob Rozakis, Marshall Rogers and Terry Austin. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (9/30)

ACTION COMICS (466, December). A full-lengther pits "Superboy" against an adult Luthor to prove "You Can Take The Man Out Of Super, But You Can't Take The Super Out Of The Boy" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Bob Oksner. (9/30)

SUPER-TEAM FAMILY (8, December-January). The Challengers Of The Unknown return in full force as they investigate the mystery of the Bermuda Triangle in "The Devil's Paradise" by Tony Isabella, Steve Skeates, Jim Sherman and Jack Abel. Plus, a Doom Patrol reprint, "The Terrible Secret Of The Negative Man" by Arnold Drake and Bruno Premiani. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Jack Abel. (9/30)

Marvel Coming Comics

THE INVADERS (11, December). The origin of Spitfire is revealed as a Nazi Iron Man is introed in "Night Of The Blue Bullet" by Roy Thomas, Frank Robbins and Frank Springer. (9/7)

DAREDEVIL (140, December). This one s a fill-in issue involving DD's battle with The Gladiator and the Beetle in "Death Times Two" by Bill Mantlo, Sal Buscema and Klaus Janson. (9/7)

IRON FIST (10, December). Iron Fist is now a fugitive, wanted for murder in "Kung Fu Killer" by Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Dan Adkins. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (9/7)

MARVEL PREMIERE (33, December). Solomon Kane appears in a new series called THE MARK OF KANE, beginning with an adaptation of Howard's "Red Shadows" by Roy Thomas and Howie Chaykin. The cover is by Chaykin. (9/7)

SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP (9, December). This issue crosses over into THE AVENGERS with "Pawns Of Attuma" by Bill Mantlo, Jim Shooter (on art breakdowns) and Sal Trapani (finished art). (9/7)

KA-ZAR (19, December). Ka-Zar does battle with "Raknor The Slayer" by Doug Moench and Val Mayerik in this, the last issue. (9/7)

TOMB OF DRACULA (51, December). "The Death Of Blade" features a battle between Drac and Blade s vampire doppleganger and is by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (9/7)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (19, December). If our calculations are correct, this should be the last issue of this title as the CAPTAIN AMERICA reprints waft their way over to MARVEL FEATURE, vacated by Red Sonja. This issue should contain Cap in "A Time To Die, A Time To Live" from TOS #95 by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott, plus the second half of "Alone Against AIM" by Archie Goodwin, Gene Colan and Johnny Craig. (9/7)

WEIRD WONDER TALES (19, December). Dr. Droom is reintroduced as Dr. Druid in an altered reprint of "I Am The Fantastic Dr. Druid" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko from AMAZING ADVENTURES #1. The cover is by Kirby. (9/7)

KID COLT OUTLAW (213, December). (9/7)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (22, December). The Thing and Thor battle the ancient god, Seth in "Touch Not The Hand Of Seth" by Bill Mantlo, Ron Wilson and Pablo Marcos. (9/7)

KULL THE DESTROYER (18, December). The cover says "The barbarian king (is) alone against the monster spawned in Hell" and that, besides being written by Doug Moench, is all we know about it. Cover is by Pablo Marcos. (9/7)

SON OF SATAN (7, December). The Son Of Satan and Mindstar are transported to the

temple of Anubis to wage their final battle in "Mirror Of Judgement" by John David Warner and Sonny Trinidad. This is the last issue. (9/7)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (163, December). The Kingpin returns in a story by Len Wein, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito. (9/14)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (204, December). Question: What is it that's unliving yet not a zombie and likes to beat up Captain America? Answer: Agron! "Agron Walks The Earth" is by Jack Kirby and Frank Giacoia. The cover is by Kirby. (9/14)

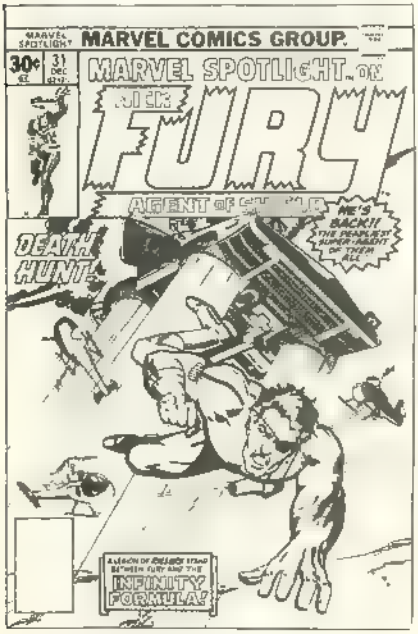
THOR (254, December). Yet another fill-in issue, this one's a reprint of Doctor Don Blake's origin, "The Answer At Last" from THOR #159, by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta. (9/14)

MASTER OF KUNG FU (47, December). Liko narrates this issue featuring the story of how she and Shang Chi get closer to Fu Manchu's fortress and to each other, entitled Part III (Liko Wu): Phantom Sand' by Doug Moench and Paul Gulacy. (9/14)

DOCTOR STRANGE (20, December). There's mystical mayhem and malevolence in a museum as Dr. Strange faces "Xander The Merciless," the latest story by Marv Wolfman and Rudy Nebres. The cover is by Colan (maybe) and Tom Palmer. (9/14)

GHOST RIDER (21, December). GR vs. the Deathstalker launches a new direction for the Mystic Motorcyclist (south maybe?) in 'Death Times Two' by Gerry Conway, Gil Kane and Sam Grainger. (9/14)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (31, December). The return of NICK FURY, AGENT OF SHIELD

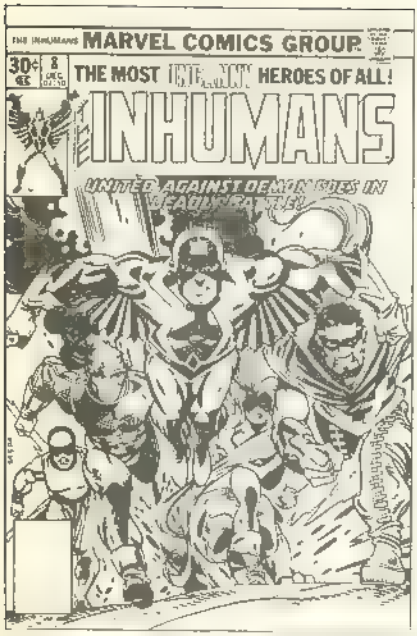


reveals howcum Nick has managed to stay young all these years. "The Infinity Formula" by Jim Starlin (story) and Howie Chaykin (art). The cover's by Starlin and Chaykin or Klaus Janson or somebody. (9/14)

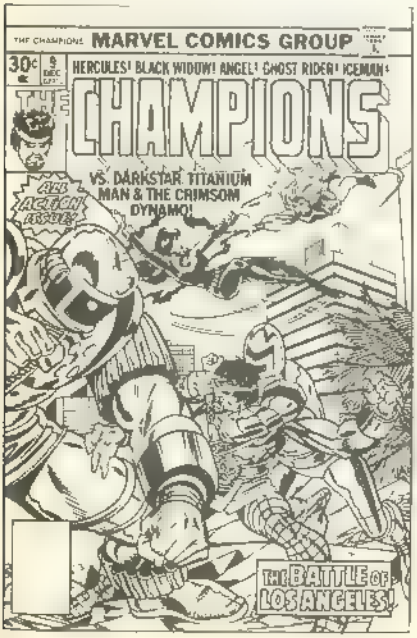
THE INHUMANS (6, December). The battle rages between the spider-city and the beetle city in Star Search: Dust And Demons' by Doug Moench, George Perez and Don Perlin. The cover is by Gil Kane and Dan Adkins. (9/14)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (206, December). The Hulk rampages through the Big Apple as he searches for Dr. Strange and the rest of The Defenders to prevent Jarella's death in a story by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Joe Staton. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (9/21)

THE ETERNALS (6, December). The Eternals debate with Kro in 'Gods And Men At City College' by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. (I wonder if they join the Forensic Society?) The cover is by Kirby of course. (9/14)



THE AVENGERS (154, December). The SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP crossover continues as The Beast, The Whizzer and Wonder Man battle Sub-Mariner in a story by Gerry Conway, George Perez and Pablo Marcos. (9/21)

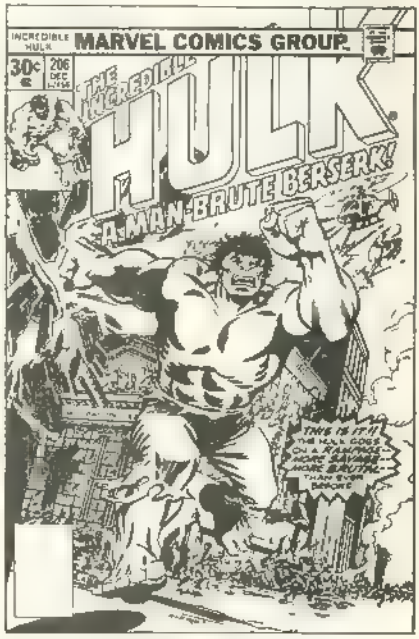


CONAN THE BARBARIAN (69, December). This issue, our hero faces The Demon From The Deep" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and The Tribe. (9/21)

THE DEFENDERS (42, December). The Defenders meet The New Emissaries Of Evil. The Rhino, Solar and Egghead in a story by Gerry Conway, Keith Giffen and Klaus Janson. (9/21)

MARVEL TALES (74, December). From SPIDER-MAN #93, "The Lady And -- The Prowler" is reprinted by Stan Lee, and John Romita. (9/21)

THE CHAMPIONS (9, December). Crimson Dynamo, Titanium Man and Darkstar fight The Champs in "The Battle Of Los Angeles' by Bill Mantlo, Bob Hall and Bob Layton. The cover is by Gil Kane and Dan Adkins. (9/21)

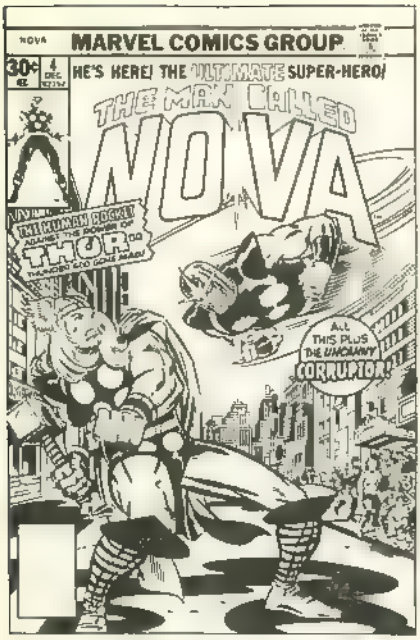


THE X-MEN (102, December). The X-Men battle it out in the castle and Storm's origin is revealed in 'We Shall Stop The Juggernaut' by Chris Claremont, Dave Cockrum and Sam Grainger. The cover is by Cockrum. (9/21)

POWER MAN (38, December). More of Luke vs. Chemistro, Checkpoint Charlie and the Cheshire Cat in "Big Brother Is Watching" by Marv Wolfman and Bob Brown. (9/21)

NOVA (4, December). Nova meets the evil Corrupter as well as Thor in "Thunder God Gone Mad by Marv Wolfman, Sal Buscema and Tom Palmer. The cover is by Jack Kirby. (9/21)

DOC SAVAGE (6, December). Doc and crew travel to Egypt to face what could be Egyptian gods who are killing off entire towns with



black rays in ' The Sky Stealers" by Doug Moench and Tony DeZuniga. The cover is by Ken Barr. (9/21)

PLANET OF THE APES (26, November). Jason and Alexander meet viking apes in "Northlands" by Doug Moench, Herb Trimpe and Virgilio Redondo. Plus chapter 5 of BATTLE FOR TPOTA is presented, "Assault On Paradise by Moench and Dino Castrillo. The cover is by Malcom McN. (9/21)

FANTASTIC FOUR (177, December). The Frightful Three (everything's being devalued these days) have taken control of the Baxter Building and are holding auditions to get it back up to the Frightful Four. Tigra and Thundra guest star in "Help Wanted: Nasty" (that's actually not the title, folks) by Roy Thomas, George Perez and Joe Sinnott. (9/28)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (52, December). Spidey and Captain America join forces with a member of the dimension of the Night People to fight Batroc in "Danger: Demon On A Rampage' by Gerry Conway, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. (9/28)

IRON MAN (93, December). Ferro-Face battles Commander Kraken in "Kraken Kills' by Gerry Conway, Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (9/28)

MARVEL PRESENTS (8, December). The Guardians recover a Badoon recorder from space which tells of the first almost-invasion of the Earth in a reprint from SILVER SURFER #2, "Once Upon A Time... The Silver Surfer" by Stan Lee, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott. The framing pages are by Roger Stern, Al Milgrom and Bob Wiacek. (9/28)

ADVENTURES ON THE PLANET OF THE THE APES (11, December). Now, the scheduled reprint is "The Children Of The Bomb ' by Doug Moench and Alfredo Alcala from PLANET OF THE APES #10,.. but since that leaves one more part of the story to go, this may not be the final issue. Wait and see. (9/28)

SPIDEY SUPER STORIES (20, December). (9/28)

HOWARD THE DUCK (7, December). Howard fights a giant gingerbread man, is nominated for President by the All-Night Party and the political story of the Manchurian Duck begins in "The Way The Cookie Crumbles" by Steve Gerber, Gene Colan and Steve Lelaloha. The cover is by Gene Colan. (9/28)

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (1, December). A concurrent series of adventures begins with Spidey facing The Tarantula in a story by Gerry Conway, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. The cover is by Sal Buscema. (9/28)

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1, December). A caveman touches the Monolith, a spaceman becomes a space-child, and Jack Kirby continues what Kubrick and Clarke began with this first issue, which was inked by Mike Royer. The cover is by (guess who?) -- Kirby! (9/28)

THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (29, November). Iron Fist and Shang Chi team up to defeat the people out "To Slay The Savior in a story by Doug Moench and Rudy Nebres. The Sons of the Tiger again star in "Flesh Of My Flesh' by Bill Mantlo, Ron Wilson, Sonny Trinidad and Rudy Mesina. The cover is by Earl Norem. (9/28)

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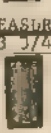

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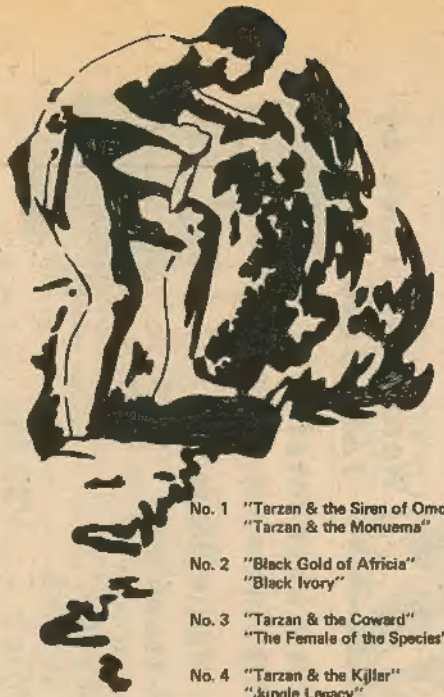

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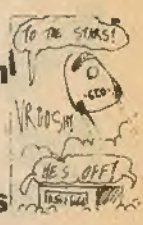

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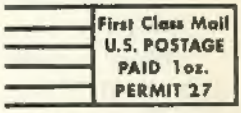

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